

SNAKE ENVENOMATION

ACTION/TREATMENT:

- ABCs/monitor cardiac rhythm.
- Minimize patient movement.
- Splint or otherwise immobilize the affected extremity; keep affected extremity at or below the level of the heart.
- Wound care: Mark margin of extent of swelling.
- IV access, rate titrated to perfusion as needed.
- Morphine sulfate for severe pain: 2 - 20 mg IVP titrated to pain.

Pediatric:

- Morphine sulfate for severe pain: 0.1 mg/kg slow IVP.

NOTES:

- **Caution: A dead snake may envenomate.**
- **IV access frequently indicated due to delayed symptoms.**
- **Do not use cold packs.**
- **Constricting bands are not usually recommended. If present on an extremity, must be able to place 1-2 fingers underneath and palpate a distal arterial pulse.**
 - **If unable to palpate a distal arterial pulse/unable to place 1-2 fingers under the constricting band, remove band and contact the base hospital for further direction. The base hospital may advise reapplication of the constricting band if transport time is extended.**

Shaded text indicates BH order

Unshaded text indicates standing order

Approved:

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